642 the Belorussian SSR;

w) Establishment of the representation of the Belorussian SSR in international relations;

x) Organization of the military formations of the Belorussian SSR;

y) Legislation concerning marriage and the family.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power in the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Belorussian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Belorussian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 20,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Belorussian SSR in accordance with Article 13 and 19 of the Constitution of the Belorussian SSR, insofar as they do not, by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Belorussian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, and the Ministries of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR by a simple majority vote.

Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR are published in the Belorussian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and four Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

643 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR are convened
646 by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and fifteen members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for all its activities.

643 Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR:
a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR;
b) Gives interpretation of laws; issues decrees;
c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Belorussian SSR in operation;
d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);
e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of [645] the Belorussian SSR and likewise decisions and orders of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies if they do not conform to law;
f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR;
g) Grants the rights of citizenship of the Belorussian SSR;
h) Confers titles of honour of the Belorussian SSR and grants awards;
i) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Belorussian SSR;
j) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Belorussian SSR to foreign states;
k) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit on any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

643 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
646 the Belorussian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

[644 645] Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR appoints the Government of the Belorussian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Belorussian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 41 The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries of the Belorussian SSR and of other economic and cultural[1] institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and verifies the work of the authorized representatives of the all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Belorussian SSR, presents it to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for confirmation and adopts measures for its execution;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Belorussian SSR, presents it for confirmation to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and adopts measures for its execution;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

f) Sets up, whenever necessary, special Committees and Central Administrations under the Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR for economic and cultural affairs;

g) Exercises guidance in the sphere of the relations of the Belorussian SSR with foreign states, on the basis of the general procedure established by the USSR governing the relations of Union Republics with foreign states;

h) Directs the organization of the military formations of the Belorussian SSR.

Art. 44. The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR has the right to annul decisions and orders of Executive Committees of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies and likewise to suspend decisions and orders of regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The Council of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR has the right to annul orders and instructions of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR.

1 [Errata: should read "Republican and Union Republican Ministries"---Analyst]

2 [Errata: "economic and cultural" should be deleted---Analyst]

633 Departments of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies or directly to the corresponding Departments of the regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 74. The Departments of city Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Borisov, Brest, Vileika, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Lida, Moghilev, Mosyr, Molodechno, Orsha, Pinsk, Polotsk, Rechitsa and Slutsk are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these towns and their executive committees as well as to the corresponding department of the regional Soviet of Working People's Deputies directly.

Art. 74a. The Departments of the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies of Minsk are subordinate in their activities both to the city Soviet of Workers' Deputies of Minsk and its Executive Committee as well as to the corresponding Ministry of the Belorussian SSR directly.

631 Art. 75. On the expiration of the terms of office of the regional, district, city, settlement or village Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

652 Art. 76. The state budget of the Belorussian SSR is drawn up by the Council
646 of Ministers of the Belorussian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 77. The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Belorussian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 78. The report on the fulfilment of the state budget of the Belorussian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR and published for general information.

652 Art. 79. The budgets of the regional, district, city, settlement and village
631 Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Belorussian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

690 Art. 80. In the Belorussian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR, the Regional Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[693] Art. 81. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 82. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Belorussian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Belorussian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Belorussian SSR.